

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

DRC-01 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 /244 W

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R 111327Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 938

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EC, EFTA, ETRD, AU

SUBJ: EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN (R/O)

REF: (A) STATE 233291, (B) STATE 235748, (C) GENEVA 6422

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED US POSITION ON EC/EFTA R/O YESTERDAY WITH
MINISTERIALRAT WILLENPART, MINTRADE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR
GATT ACTIVITIES. WE DREW PARTICULARLY ON REF A, PARAS 1.A.
AND B., STRESSING SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG VIEWS THIS ISSUE,
OUR PREFERENCE FOR SPECIAL WORKING PARTY ON R/O, BUT OUR
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DETERMINATION

TO PURSUE QUESTION IN EC NORWAY WORKING PARTY IF SPECIAL WORKING

PARTY NOT ESTABLISHED.

2. WILLENPART INDICATED HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM AUSTRIAN MISSION GENEVA REPORT SUMMARIZING US POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID AUSTRIA ITSELF IS NOT HAPPY WITH EC R/O, WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM CHANGED, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE NOW IS TIME FOR AUSTRIA TO APPROACH EC. AUSTRIAN ASSESSMENT IS THAT SUCH APPROACH WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL AND POSSIBLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WILLENPART SAID THAT AUSTRIA WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO SPECIAL WORKING PARTY AND, IF EC WOULD AGREE, AUSTRIA WOULD IMMEDIATELY ACCEPT IT ALSO. HOWEVER, WILLENPART MADE IT PLAIN THAT AUSTRIANS ARE NOT ABOUT TO GET OUT IN FRONT OVER THIS ISSUE AND SUPPORT US POSITION AGAINST EC OPPOSITION.

3. WILLENPART SAID THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED RECENTLY AMONG EFTA COUNTRIES AND INDICATED AUSTRIA WOULD PREFER TO MOVE IN STEP WITH FELLOW-EFTA MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: WE GATHERED FROM WILLENPART'S COMMENTS THAT THERE IS NO SENTIMENT AMONG OTHER EFTA COUNTRIES FOR PRESSING FOR SPECIAL GATT WORKING PARTY IF EC OPPOSES IT. MOWINCKEL

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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